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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **INFORMA**

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COUNTRY Argentina

DATE DISTR. 21 Feb 1949

SUBJECT Resistance of Argentine Priests to Government Requests

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Monsignor Amunciado Serafini, Bishop of Mercedes, has in recent months received repeated requests from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship to dismiss from his diocese several priests, among them Father Santiago Plaza, of Santa Rosa de Lima (Bragado, Buenos Aires Province) who is well known as an anti-Peronista. Although Monsignor Serafini was reluctant to accede to the Ministry's request, he attempted to comply by persuading the priests to resign voluntarily. However, the priests refused to submit voluntary resignations.
2. An incident occurred in San Andres de Giles, Buenos Aires Province, a short time later which prompted the government to press Monsignor Serafini again for dismissal of anti-Peronista priests. Although the Bishop appealed to the priest of that locality to resign, he was eventually forced to dismiss him from the post as the priest refused to yield voluntarily. A few days later, 30 of the 35 priests in the Bishop's diocese told the Bishop that if the dismissed priest of San Andres de Giles were not reinstated, they would immediately send to the Vatican a letter signed by all of them in which they would request that the Bishop be removed for cowardice before the government. The priest was immediately reinstated.

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